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ABSTRACT

The goal of this revised edition is to describe and illustrate the process of implementing ecological assessment in classrooms. The focus is on the process of change. Teachers who assess ecologically create classroom environments that are small ecosystems representative of the larger literacy system outside the classroom. New developments in assessment have occurred in response to new educational research that describes the learner as an active constructor of knowledge. Bringing assessment in line with this view of learning is the purpose of this text. The following chapters are included: (1) "Changes in Views of Learning and Assessment"; (2) "Why Do We Assess?"; (3) "Why Should We Assess Ecologically?"; (4) "Reading Development"; (5) "Writing Development"; (6) "Constructing a Developmental Writing Continuum"; (7) "Creating the Context and Goals for Assessing Reading and Writing"; (8) "The Portfolio System--The Big Picture"; (9) "Professional Observation--A Central Component of an Ecological Portfolio System"; (10) "Organizing a Teacher Observation Notebook"; (11) "Introduction...Integrating Assessment and Instruction"; (12) "Observing Reading: The Running Record and Comprehension"; (13) "Observing for Reading Strategies, Independence, Metacognitive Awareness, Level of Reading Acquisition, Attitudes and Interests, and Purposive Reading"; (14) "The Working Portfolio for Reading"; (15) "Observing Writing"; (16) "The Working Portfolio for Writing"; (17) "Getting Started and Wrapping Up: 'Roaming around the Known' and Developing Showcase Portfolios"; (18) "Communicating Student Literacy Development to Parents"; (19) "There Must Be Something Wrong, We're Having Too Much Fun"; (20) "Literacy Portfolios in the Intermediate Grades: 'Under Construction'"; (21) "Elementary School Writing Assessment: A Developmental Perspective"; (22) "Issues of Reliability and Validity"; and (23) "Communicating Information beyond the Classroom." An appendix contains forms that might be used in assessment, and there is an annotated list of 81 additional resources for assessment. (Contains 83 figures and 143 references.) (SLD)